



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	21-007
Project Title	Livelihoods in the balance - protecting Cambodia's remaining seasonally-inundated grasslands
Country(ies)	Cambodia
Lead Organisation	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
Collaborator(s)	Mlup Baitong (MB) , Chamroen Chiet Khmer (CCK), Forestry Administration (FA) of the Royal Cambodian Government, BirdLife Cambodia
Project Leader	Andy Graham
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	31 October 2014 – HYR1
Project website	Not applicable

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Planned activities over the last 6 months (Quarter 1 & 2):

Recruit project team – We were very successful in recruiting the National Project Manager (NPM) and the Finance and Administrative Officer. These individuals started in post in April and May respectively. Unfortunately, the recruitment of the Biodiversity and Engagement Advisor (BEA) was delayed, as finding the right candidate was a lot more difficult than anticipated. The successful candidate started in post at the end of September (original estimated start date was April 2014). The delay in recruiting the BEA has also caused delays to the appointment of the Field Officers at Boeung Prek Lapouv (BPL), as the BEA needs to be involved in the recruitment process because he will supervise this team. Unfortunately, the delayed recruitment of the BEA has also caused a delay in the delivery of several other planned activities that were due to take place over the last 6 months (see details below).

Project team initial training and orientation - The Project Leader (PL) has carried out the first elements of his induction and training. This training will continue into Q3.

1.1 Establish land registration committee (to include government and community representatives) – Initial meetings with national and provincial government personnel have taken place to establish a detailed programme for this activity, which will now commence in Q3.

1.5 Provide quarterly progress report to BPL liaison panel – The panel has not yet been established. We now plan to hold the inaugural meetings in December/January. However, meetings were held with the project partners in May and July to detail the joint working protocols and work programmes.

2.1 Constitute liaison panels (to receive progress reports from partners, review progress make recommendations for action)/ 2.2 Hold liaison panel meetings (quarterly; plus one joint liaison panel meeting annually) – As mentioned above, the liaison panels have not yet been established. These activities will now be undertaken in Q3 and thereafter.

2.3 Hold community fora (quarterly) –Several meetings have been held with community representatives at both sites (Boeung Prek Lapouv and Anlung Pring). These will be regularised from Q3, along with the liaison panels.

2.10 Complete legal designation process for kampong Krasang CFI at BPL – The legal designation process has been completed and is now awaiting endorsement from government.

2.12 Undertake wild fishery yield analysis for both CFIs (beginning and end of project); produce report (use to inform CFI management plans) – We have developed a brief with a fishery expert, and will now start this work in Q3. The delay has been because water levels have been too high as floodwaters have not receded as much as expected.

2.15 Develop and agree marketing strategy for eco-tourism at AP – An eco-tourism consultant has been identified and is working with us to develop an eco-tourism marketing strategy. This activity will be continued in Q3/4.

2.19, 3.16, 4.8 & 5.9 Produce quarterly progress report for liaison panels – These activities have not yet been completed (see details above).

3.2 Develop and produce training manual – The development of the training manual is underway. This has involved assessments for the Local Conservation Groups (LCGs) and NGO partners, which will be continued into Q3 and 4.

3.6 Undertake survey of rice-growing and fishing practices of Vietnamese community at BPL/ 3.7 Deliver training in sustainable farming/fishing and reserve regulations to Vietnamese community – These activities have been delayed until Quarter 3/4, as the Vietnamese people are not yet on site. The partner NGO is currently in the process of drafting questionnaires for interviewing key households. The training programme in sustainable farming/fishing and reserve regulations is currently in preparation.

3.8 Design biological survey and monitoring programme (BSMP) – The biological survey and monitoring programme is currently underway and estimated to be prepared by end of Q3/beginning of Q4, led by the BEA.

3.14 Support LCGs in delivering law enforcement activities – This activity commenced in April. All members of both Local Conservation Groups (LCGs) have been contracted for the duration of the project and have signed agreements to fulfil the requirements of their role. They have received refresher training (particularly the new members) in the laws and regulations. Training needs and resources assessment are being managed by the National Project Manager.

4.1 Run launch workshops for both plans (water level mgmt plans) – This activity is now scheduled to undertaken in Q4.

4.2 Establish stakeholder groups and work programme –Work will begin in Q3 under the supervision of the BEA.

5.1 Establish national working group to draft guidelines – This activity will now take place in Q4 after discussions have taken place with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) and Ministry of Environment.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The delayed recruitment of the Biodiversity and Engagement Advisor (BEA) has had a knock on effect on several activities planned for Q1 and Q2, noticeably the establishment of liaison panels and community fora as detailed above. However, we have held several community

meetings and training events, which have to an extent mitigated the impact of this delay.

This means that the programme timeline will need to be reviewed. The Project Leader will carry out this process over the next few weeks. Any necessary changes will be proposed to LTS for their consideration and agreement. We do not anticipate that the delay in recruitment will seriously impact on the project, but we will clearly identify over the next few weeks, what we need to do to ensure we deliver the programme as agreed.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £ tbc

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

The reasons for our anticipated significant underspend relate to the delayed recruitment of the BEA described above. The resultant knock-on effect on the delivery of several planned activities over the last 6 months has caused underspend in these areas even though we have undertaken as much preparatory work as possible ahead of the arrival of the BEA. Although the project has suffered delays and underspend, we are very confident that we can get the project back on track and deliver the programme of works as agreed. The Project Leader will be returning to Cambodia in January to help implement the work on the ground.

We will be in a position to discuss the underspend in December 2014.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

We do not have any other issues we wish to raise.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**